

MOONACHIE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Robert L. Craig School
Cafeteria Meeting
October 17, 2023

Call to order by Board President Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: David Vaccaro
Edmond Monti
Matthew Vaccaro
Candace Tarabocchia

Members Absent: One Vacant Member

Also Present: James Knipper, Superintendent/Principal
Laurel Spadavecchia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dana Genatt, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Jaclyn Morgese, Board Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

State of Compliance:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights for the public to have advance notice of, and to attend, the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be sent, announcing time and place thereof, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to the following: Borough of Moonachie and Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

1.

- **Acceptance of Minutes of September 26, 2023**, closed session and regular session, and Superintendent Report – Attachment 1.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

- **Acceptance of Correspondence**

1. NJ Department of Education IDEA Final Report approval letter – Attachment 1.2

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Candace Tarabocchia

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

- **Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Knipper held a moment of silence to remember Mr. Charles Pallas, former board member for 55 years, who recently passed. He noted that in true Mr. Pallas fashion, he wrote his own obituary and noted that in lieu of flowers, he wished for all donations be sent to the Robert L. Craig School in care of the Charles Pallas Scholarship Fund to recognize the Most Improved student in Math and ELA in the 8th grade. Mr. Pallas’ motto was “You don’t have to be the best, just try your best.”

Mr. Knipper also announced that the district applied for a tutoring grant and is waiting for an approval. He will keep the Board apprised of this. He thanked the Moonachie Education Association for their partnership in making the school very successful.

Mr. Knipper stated that there are four candidates for the vacant Board Member position and all four have completed the interview process. The Board will vote to appoint a new member at the next Board of Education meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Knipper announced to the 8th grade students and their parents that high school applications are now open for those wishing to attend alternate high schools. Mrs. Genatt then announced the Students of the Month.

Motion: Edmond Monti
 Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro
 Action taken: 1 Aye. I Vacancy. Motion Approved.

- **Submission of HIB Cases – October 2023**

<u>Investigations</u>	<u>Confirmed Cases</u>
0	0

- **Students of the Month**

<u>October</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Domenica Tripodi	Pre-K
Matteo Morales	Kindergarten
Jordi Gutierrez	1
Lucas Guerrero	2
Nicholas Haddad	3
Jesus Cali-Matias	4
Alexander Flores	5
Ava Gonzales	Middle School Math
Emely Sanchez	Middle School ELA
Connor Wares	Middle School Social Studies
Aaron Ramos	Technology

- PRESENTATION – State Assessment Performance Data by Dana Genatt

- Public Comments - (Agenda Items Only)

In addition, please be aware that employees of this School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public and, in order to protect the privacy rights of employees in the District, the Board shall not respond to statements made by the public of or about District employees.

Mr. Greg Keelen, Social Studies Teacher, expressed his deepest condolences to the Board and our community over the loss of Mr. Pallas. He stated Mr. Pallas served with an unmatched passion and a true belief in civic virtue as he always put Moonachie students first. His loss will be felt by all of us.

Mr. Keelen also welcomed Ms. Candace Tarabocchia to the Board of Education stating how appreciated the commitment to the community is amongst all Board members.

2. Finance

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the Bills and Claims against the Board of Education for equipment, materials and supplies furnished and delivered, and for work performed for October 2023 for a total of \$377,984.81–Attachment 2.1
2. Resolved to approve the Check Register for the month of September 2023 for a total of \$466,618.47 –Attachment 2.2
3. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for September 30, 2023 for \$112,373.37 with gross pay wages of \$194,551.73 – Attachment 2.3
4. Resolved to approve the Payroll Check Register for October 15, 2023 for \$115,080.87 with gross pay wages of \$198,831.41 – Attachment 2.4
5. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for October 2023 that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Moonachie Board of Education.
6. Resolved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for October 2023 that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended ad that sufficient

funds are available to meet the Moonachie Board of Education's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

7. Resolved to approve the Moonachie Board of Education Guide for Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls – Available for review at the Board Office.
8. Resolved to approve 2023-2024 Budget/Election Calendar – Attachment 2.8
9. Resolved to approve the submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan Report for FY 22-23 Actual, FY 23-24 Budgeted, and FY 24-25 Planned, documenting required maintenance activities for a period of three years whereas all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use in compliance with New Jersey Department of Education requirements – Attachment 2.9
10. Resolved to approve the Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP engagement letter to audit the financial statements of the Moonachie Board of Education – Attachment 2.10
11. Resolved to approve check #1193 from the Milk & Lunch account for \$18,048.00 for September 2023 meals.
12. Resolved to approve the submission of the Division of Early Childhood Services Annual Preschool Program Operational Plan.
13. Resolved to approve Bergen Fence to install a new fence around the perimeter of the playground with use of Capital Reserve funds– Attachment 2.13
14. Resolved to accept the Treasurer's Report for month ending September 2023 – Attachment 2.14
15. Resolved to accept the Report of Secretary to the Moonachie Board of Education for month ending September 2023 – Attachment 2.15

3. Policy

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

Discussion: Residency Investigation Services

Mr. Knipper and Mrs. Spadavecchia met with TrueView Investigation Services regarding their residency investigation services. Mr. Monti would like to know if they have liability insurance and how they handle any litigation that may arise. This discussion will be tabled until the next Board meeting when those questions can be answered.

1. Resolved to approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance School Year 2023-2024–Attachment 3.1
2. Resolved to approve the 2023-2024 Moonachie School District Nursing Services Plan – Attachment 3.2

3. Resolved to approve the submission of the New Jersey Department of Education Performance Report to NJ Smart.
4. Resolved to approve the Moonachie Public School District Early Childhood Advisory Council Bylaws – Attachment 3.4
5. Resolved to approve the following new, revised and abolished policies and regulations:

P1524	School Leadership Councils	Abolished
P2270	Religion in the Schools	Revised
P3161	Examination for Cause	Revised
P3212	Attendance	Revised
R3212	Attendance	Revised
P3324	Right of Privacy	Revised
P3432	Sick Leave	Abolished
R3432	Sick Leave	Abolished
P4161	Examination for Cause	Revised
P4212	Attendance	Revised
R4212	Attendance	Revised
P4324	Right to Privacy	Revised
P4432	Sick Leave	Abolished
R4432	Sick Leave	Abolished
P5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised
R5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students	Revised
P5116	Education of Homeless Children & Youths	Revised
R5116	Education of Homeless Children & Youths	Revised
P5460.02	Bridge year Pilot Program	Abolished
R5460.02	Bridge Year Pilot Program	Abolished
P6361	Relations with Vendors for Abbott Districts	Abolished
P8500	Food Services	Revised
P8540	School Nutrition Programs	Abolished
P8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill	Abolished

4. Personnel

Motion: Edmond Monti

Seconded: Matthew Vaccaro

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve Georgie Del Rosario as Part-Time Food Server at an hourly rate of \$19.25 for the 2023–2024 school year.
2. Resolved to approve the resignation of Riffat Naqvi as Part-Time Aide.
3. Resolved to approve Randi Petruzzella as Part-Time Aide for the 2023–2024 school year pending outcome of the Criminal History Background Screening.
4. Resolved to approve Maria Failla as Special Education Extra-Curricular Activity Aide at Becton Regional High School at an hourly rate of \$21.00.
5. Resolved to appoint Dana Genatt as District Liaison to Law Enforcement for the 2023-2024 school year.

6. Resolved to approve the following list of employees to provide home instruction at an hourly rate of \$51.01 for the 2023-2024 school year:

Allison Stanisci	Joan Boniello	Allison Maccarrone
Danielle DeStefano	Kelly Collaci	
Michael Lia	Gabriella Vega	
Gianna Vitetta	Jenna Millar	
7. Resolved to approve Gabby Bulger as Student Teacher from Felician University Teacher Preparation Program at no cost, for a total of 15 hours, pending outcome of Criminal History Background Screening.
8. Resolved to approve extra compensation for Natasha Dillon to perform additional duties in the absence of an employee on Worker's Compensation, at an hourly rate of \$51.01 not to exceed 29 hours per month until a replacement teacher is assigned or assigned teacher returns to work.

5. Curriculum

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
 Seconded: Edmond Monti
 Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

1. Resolved to approve the following workshops and field trips:

Destination	Date	Cost
Bureau of Education & Research "Best Cutting Edge Tech Tools, Activities and Resources for Enhancing Your General Music Program ~ Kimberly Schmidt	October 26, 2023	\$279.00
Preschool Instructional Coach Seminar Somerville Public Schools ~Allison Maccarone	October 2-6, 2023	Mileage only
Art of Education University Virtual Winter Conference ~ Lee Ten Hoeve	February 2, 2024	\$149.00
Metropolitan Medical Corporation CPR & AED Training ~ Sandy Diaz, Joseph Gingerelli, Michael Lia	November 8, 2023	\$195.00

6. Facilities

1. Resolved to approve the Department of Health Sanitary Inspection Report – Attachment 6.1

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro
 Seconded: Edmond Monti
 Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

7. Old Business None.

Motion:
 Seconded:
 Action taken:

8. New Business None.

Motion:

Seconded:

Action taken:

9. Information Items

1. Average monthly attendance from 9/1/23 – 9/30/23 - Attachment 9.1

2. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer for the month ending September 2023– Attachment 9.2

10. Discussion Items

Mr. Knipper wanted to give a huge thank you to the Mayor and Council and the town Department of Public Works for helping the school with grass cutting and lawn maintenance while one of our custodians has been injured and is not able to work for a short amount of time. He also thanked them for the wonderful Fall decorations they generously donated and set up in front of the school.

Board President, David Vaccaro, suggested looking into hiring a snow removal company for this upcoming winter season. Mrs. Spadavecchia will try to obtain quotes for the next meeting.

11. Public Comments

Open: 7:04 p.m.

Closed: 7:09 p.m.

Mr. Peter Meyers, 17 Frederick Street, asked how TrueView conducts its residency investigations and at what cost. Mr. Knipper replied that the district conducts re-residency screenings every few years and was planning to do this in the spring. This agency uses available public information to search and cross-reference names and addresses to determine the likelihood of students living in the district. It is the district's intent to use this information solely as a screening tool, after which it will conduct its own investigation. The cost for this service is \$3.00 per name of guardian, which would amount to less than the cost of conducting a residency screening in-house.

12. Adjournment 7:10 p.m.

Motion: Matthew Vaccaro

Seconded: Edmond Monti

Action taken: 1 Aye. 1 Vacancy. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Spadavecchia

Laurel Spadavecchia